



“Edward Teller helped shape the course of human history.”

—President George W. Bush,
on presenting the Presidential Medal of Freedom

“He was a major part of the flowering of American science. Edward Teller didn’t just make a difference, he made a gigantic difference.”

—George Shultz, former Secretary of State



DR. EDWARD TELLER

An Extraordinary Life

Edward Teller, renowned physicist and Director Emeritus and co-founder of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, died at his home on the Stanford University campus on September 9. He was 95.

Less than two months earlier, President George W. Bush honored Teller with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor. Teller was too ill to attend the ceremony, but his daughter, Wendy, accepted the medal on his behalf. Teller received many honors over the years, but he was especially touched by this one. He said, “In my long life, I had to face some difficult decisions and found myself often in doubt whether I acted in the right way. Thus, receiving the medal is a great blessing for me.”

A memorial service was held at the Laboratory on November 3 where friends, colleagues, congressional representatives, and family paid tribute to the many dimensions of Teller’s life. He was celebrated as a man of science, teacher, patriot, adviser to presidents, family man, musician, and poet.

“To me, Edward Teller will always be my dad. My father went to work five days before he died. Many people say this is an indication of his dedication and determination. I see this as an indication of his dedication to his friends and colleagues. The fact that his friends made it possible for him to work until his last days was a source of joy to him. Your friendship was the cornerstone of my father’s success and his happiness.”

—Wendy Teller, daughter of Edward Teller



Teller
memorial
service at
Livermore.



Daughter
Wendy and
son Paul at
the memorial
service.